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JAUNDICE AS AN EPIDEMIC.

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In noticing the communication of Dr. Pitman in the March number of the New Orleans Medical Journal, in relation to the prevalence of jaundice in an epidemic form in the vicinity of Rocky Mount, N. C., the editor says, "We apprehend, however, that the cases observed by Dr. Pitman and reported as jaundice were examples of bilious remittent fever," &c. If this decision is based upon the opinion that jaundice never prevails epidemically, it is probably erroneous. A part of the cases at least would seem, from the date of the correspondence, to have occurred in mid-winter, when it is not probable there was any bilious remittent fever in the vicinity of Rocky Mount, to be confounded with it; and I shall proceed to show that jaundice has occurred in an epidemic form at other times and places, although, I believe, there are but few instances to be found on record.

Mr. Samuel Cooper, in a note to the article "icterus," in Good's Study of Medicine, says—"The disease (jaundice) appears to have been epidemic at Cronstadt in 1784 and 1785, and at Geneva in 1814. In the latter city, it occurred after the hot weather in summer, being in some cases combined with bilious fever; in others, not associated with any manifest disorder."

Dr. James C. Harris, in the Western Jour. Med. and Surgery, for July, 1848, has described an epidemic jaundice as occurring at and in the neighborhood of Wetumpka, Ala.

Jaundice occurred in an epidemic form in this place and the vicinity in the summer and fall of 1839. The first case in the community was accompanied by febrile excitement of a high grade, and was pronounced by a practitioner not very extensively read, to be a case of *yellow fever*!

A large number of cases occurred subsequently during August, September and October. A few were accompanied by febrile symptoms, but much the largest number were free from them; and there was no case except the first, and perhaps one other, that could be taken, or mistaken, for bilious remittent fever. The disease confined itself almost exclusively to *adult males*. There were a few females affected, but no children. Three physicians out of five in the village had the disease.

The disease came on very gradually, and was characterized by languor, loss of appetite, a bitter taste in the mouth, furred tongue, sense

of weight at the epigastrium, yellow skin and conjunctivæ; urine a deep color, staining the linen, and constipation of the bowels, with clay-colored stools. A few complained of some fulness or pain in the head. In one case there was great irritability of the stomach and vomiting, the dejections consisting of the articles swallowed, mixed with the secretions of the stomach, but without any bilious matter. There was no case of death, and many of the persons who had it, were able to attend to their ordinary business most of the time.

In a few instances the patient had to keep his room, and perhaps his bed for a few days. The greatest complaint was a feeling of excessive lethargy; a disgust for food, and the sense of sinking or weight at the epigastrium. The loathing of food and bitter taste were frequently compared to that produced by measles; and it was a common remark with patients that they had "never had anything to make them feel *so mean*."

The treatment was various, and all modes were attended with about the same success, as there seemed to be a natural tendency in the disease to terminate in from about ten days to two weeks or a little more. The first case that came under my charge was in a young man 23 years old. I undertook to vomit him for the purpose of arousing his liver. Tartar emetic was administered in divided portions until he had taken six grains. It produced great nausea and distress, with but slight vomiting. No bile ejected. His pulse sunk to 45 beats in the minute; he became deathly sick, and the tartar emetic was stopped. A full dose of blue pill was given, followed by rhubarb, and subsequently by two ounces of castor oil before alvine evacuations could be procured. The stools were of an ashy color and small, without the least appearance of bilious matter.

Calomel was next exhibited pretty freely, without any better success with the liver. After the first few days the treatment was rather expectant than otherwise, and the patient recovered in about the ordinary time.

I succeeded in vomiting another patient freely after giving a considerable quantity of ipecac. and tartar emetic, and found some slight traces of bile after severe straining.

Another patient, in taking calomel to "act on his liver," was severely salivated. The pyalism did not appear to affect the functions of the liver, or modify the disease in any way. The fact is, that until the disease began to subside of itself, or from other remedies, the boasted "Sampson" of the materia medica seemed to have lost all its influence over its peculiar organ. The best treatment finally appeared to be the use of occasional purgatives, with the regular exhibition for some days of such tonics as quinine, barks, and an infusion or tincture of the bark of the wild cherry. The latter was the popular remedy, and was all that some persons used.

Epidemic jaundice is no doubt produced by the same cause that gives rise to bilious remittent fever; its influence being in some manner modified so as to give different results under different circumstances.

It was, at Geneva, found occurring "after the hot weather in summer," and "in some cases combined with bilious fever." Dr. Harris

describes it as occurring in company with a form of fever that was evidently bilious remittent fever. Dr. Pitman finds some of his cases "complicated with intermittent fever;" while it occurred with us in the season of our autumnal fevers, appearing for the time to take the place of them. We had bilious remittents during the latter part of the time, and after the jaundice prevailed.

As epidemic jaundice has seldom if ever proved fatal, there have perhaps been few if any opportunities of determining by post-mortem examinations the precise condition of the liver, the organ at fault in the disease. In searching for its immediate cause in such cases as those presented by epidemics, we may set aside calculi, obliteration of the biliary ducts, organic diseases of the liver, pressure from tumors and enlarged viscera, spasm of the gall-ducts, inflammation of the liver, and inflammation of the duodenum. It has been thought to be produced sometimes by a closure of the choledochus duct by a viscid mucus. This we may dismiss also, as emetics and cathartics would certainly dislodge such an accumulation without difficulty; and these are not found to cure epidemic jaundice.

If we agree with Darwin, Chevreul and Mayo, that the bile is *formed in the blood* and merely separated by the liver, we might suppose the morbid agent had simply caused a cessation of the functions of the liver, leaving the bile in the blood; and therefore that the yellow skin and secretions resulted from a *suppression* of bile. If this hypothesis were true, then every individual whose liver ceased to secrete, even temporarily, would become jaundiced, which we have reason to believe is not the case. Our skins would be constantly becoming yellower or clearer as the formative power or separating power preponderated. It is very certain that in many diseases the functions of the liver are almost if not entirely arrested for several days, as are those of the salivary glands, skin, &c., and that without inducing jaundice. Further, all analogy teaches us that the bile is not formed in the blood, but by the action of the liver; while chemical analysis has failed to detect it in that fluid.

The true pathology of epidemic jaundice will perhaps be found in the increased activity of the absorbents of the liver produced by the action of the morbid agent, resulting in the absorption of the *biliverdin* or coloring principle, a portion of the bilin or bitter principle, and the main part of the water (which amounts near to eighty-five parts in the hundred), leaving the balance of the constituents in the ducts and gall-bladder in a state of inspissation. It is not improbable that this absorption takes place mainly in the larger ducts and gall-bladder.

It has been urged against the theory of absorption, that the absorbents would not take up such an irritating fluid as the bile. But it does not appear from observation that the absorbents are less disposed to take up irritating fluids than bland ones; and moreover, the absorbents would be as apt to tolerate the bile, as the delicate endangium, upon the hypothesis of its existence in the bloodvessels ready formed. Besides, it remains to be proved that the bitter and coloring principles, in the state of solution in which they are supposed to be taken up, are peculiarly irritating.

The coloring principle of the bile just taken into the blood constitutes foreign or effete matter, and is thrown off by the kidneys and cutaneous emunctories, or lodged in the cutis vera, the delicate tissues of the conjunctivæ, and the mucous membranes. The loss of appetite, impaired digestion and constipation, are readily accounted for by the absence of bile from the alimentary canal.—*New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal*.

#### PROSECUTION OF AN UNLICENSED PRACTITIONER.

**POLICE COURT, QUEBEC.** The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Lower Canada, *Prosecutor*. Euphrosine Thivierge, Widow Crepeau, *Defendant*.

This was an information and complaint filed by the College above named against the defendant, for having, between the first day of June, 1849, and the eighth day of May, 1850, at the Parish of St. Jean, Isle d'Orleans, practised physic and surgery, without being a person duly *qualified* so to practise, against the form of the late statutes 10 and 11 Vict. cap. 26, and 12 Vict. cap. 52.

The above charges were divided into two counts, one for practising physic, the other for practising surgery.

The information concluded that the defendant should be adjudged to have forfeited the sum of £1775 cy., being the amount of penalties she had incurred by having practised as aforesaid—the penalty for each day's practice being £5—and that the said sum should be paid to the College above named to form part of the funds thereof, and that in default of such payment the defendant should be committed to the common jail of the District of Quebec until the same should be paid.

The defendant pleaded not guilty.

The evidence adduced by the prosecutor tended to show that the defendant had attended a few individuals who were suffering from hurts and dislocations; and on two or three other occasions had applied cataplasms, given *tisannes* to sick persons, and attended them during their illness. The witnesses added that the defendant made no charges for her attendance; on one occasion she had received 8s. 9d. for services as a *garde malade*.

Angers for prosecutor, stated that the Statutes above mentioned had been passed for the purpose of preventing persons of the description of the defendant practising physic and surgery; that although it did not appear that the defendant was in the habit of charging for the services she rendered, yet presents might be made her to recompense her. That judgment must be pronounced against her for £15 for three penalties which she had incurred, of which there was sufficient proof; that the object of the prosecutor was not to harass or punish the defendant, but to enforce the law and put an end to the quacking which existed to a frightful extent in the country parts, and had produced the most baneful results.

Pope, for defendant, argued, That the prosecutor's case had not been



at all proved—that not a word of evidence had been adduced to show that defendant had practised physic—she had given tisanne, a mixture used in every house—she had merely employed herbs. As to the treatment of cases of dislocation, which had been mentioned, it did not amount to what could be termed surgical; moreover, that she had never charged for her services, that she had in fact attended persons as a nurse, and had given simple and home-made remedies, such as are used in every dwelling-house in the country; but that, whether or not the Court inclined to the offence alleged had been proved, was at present immaterial, because the defendant was prosecuted under the statute already referred to; that, by the provisions of that statute, a penalty could be inflicted on any person who should practise physic or surgery without being duly *licensed* so to do, but that, in the present case, the defendant was charged, not with having practised without being licensed, but without being duly *qualified*; that these words were not synonymous, but differed widely in their signification. If the defendant had been prosecuted for practising without a license, she might have produced her license, and the information must have fallen, but here she was only accused of having practised without being *qualified*. That it appeared from the prosecutor's own evidence, that she was well qualified, since she had always succeeded in what was termed her treatment—that she could only be punished for the offence being rendered punishable by statute, that the information did not charge her with a statutable offence, and that in consequence it must be dismissed.

Soulard, as a friend to the defendant, then addressed the court, and stated, that the defendant could not be convicted of having *practised*; that even admitting, for argument's sake, that she had visited a few individuals, it could not be said that such visits constituted practice—that in order to practise, she must have made a profession of treating persons—that she must gain by it, and should make her livelihood by it—but that it was abundantly proved that she did not do so, and had not done so. The cases mentioned were few and far between—she had acted from purely charitable motives. It was quite excusable that persons from country parts should address themselves to an aged and respectable female, and obtain her assistance as *garde malade*, in preference to asking advice from a young medical man, who besides would charge sums which the people could not pay; that the defendant had acted gratuitously, and that the law could not have intended that persons of her description, who merely administered remedies made from herbs, internally, and applied simple and home-made cataplasms, externally, should be condemned to wither in goal for relieving the pains of their fellow creatures.

Angers for the prosecutor, in reply, insisted that his case had been proved, that the word *qualified* must be understood as meaning *licensed*, because the obtaining of a license was a necessary *qualification* to practise—that the cases mentioned constituted practice, and that she must be condemned.

*Judgment.*—The Statute under the provisions of which this information has been brought, was passed for the purpose, among others, of

preventing ignorant persons from practising a profession requiring great skill and medical knowledge. Serious consequences have often resulted from allowing persons of the description of the defendant to use medicines and practise surgery, without being qualified to do so; and the Legislature has acted wisely and humanely in preventing a recurrence of such cases, and at the same time requiring due qualifications on the part of those who aspire to the medical profession.

It has been stated by the defendant's counsel, that the defendant did not make a livelihood by attending sick persons, and that therefore it could not be said that she *practised* physic or surgery; but viewing the Statute in the light I have just mentioned, it must be seen that the ill sought to be avoided would still obtain were this pretension to be allowed. Besides, the Statute does not require that gain should have been the object of persons practising unlawfully—the offence would be complete without payment. I am of opinion that the acts proved to have been done by the defendant, amount to practising physic and surgery, but no condemnation can be pronounced against her, because a fatal variance exists between the words of the Statute and those laid in the information.

By the Statute, a penalty is to be inflicted on any person who should have practised physic or surgery, without being duly *licensed* to do so; the information charges the defendant with having practised physic and surgery, without being *qualified* to do so. Now these words have a widely different signification; besides, if I convict the defendant, I must convict her of the charge laid in the information, which must be in accordance with the Statute; for the conviction, information and Statute must agree—in this case they do not agree. The information, therefore, having charged the defendant with the commission of an offence not specified in the Statute, I dismiss it, with costs against the College.—*Brit. Amer. Med. and Phys. Journal.*

#### CARIOUS ABSORPTION OF BONE. CASE, WITH A POINT IN MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

WHILE engaged with my private class of students in dissecting a recent subject, I noticed certain morbid changes, which seem sufficiently rare to warrant publicity. Certain peculiar pathological appearances observed about the cranial bones, moreover, by the force of circumstances came near exciting a turmoil in our usually peaceful village.

Of the history of this case, unfortunately, "circumstances" compel me to remain mostly in ignorance. All that is known certainly is, that the subject, a female of some 45 or 50 years of age, was supposed to have the *consumption*, and, as is unhappily too often the case in this section of country, was therefore abandoned by her physician to quacks and nostrums some months prior to death. On inspection, seventy-two hours post-mortem, there was found very great emaciation, cedema of the lower extremities, and purplish discoloration of the depending parts.

The omentum was much wasted. The liver was the most prominent of the abdominal contents, occupying rather more than a third of the cavity, reaching nearly to the lower margin of the left hypochondrium, compressing and nearly concealing the stomach and duodenum. It presented the appearance of being generally swollen. The color was of a dirty yellow, mottled with spots of the normal hue. On section, it cut, as one of the young gentlemen happily expressed it, "like old cheese," greasing the scalpel and giving an unctuous feeling to the fingers. The cut or torn surface was similar in color to the external, though somewhat more uniform. It burned very readily with a bright flame. The hepatic vessels were considerably compressed, but apparently permeable and of healthy structure. The gall-bladder was normal, but filled with a greenish sero-sanguineous fluid instead of bile. Spleen hypertrophied, and of a greenish-black color. Pancreas compressed and atrophied. Stomach and intestines healthy, excepting remarkable pallor of the mucous membrane. Kidneys, a little larger than usual, and surcharged with blood, though no certain signs of inflammation. Uterus indurated, firm, and on section its tissue found of a black color, discharged by maceration. To the left ovary was attached a serous cyst, of about four inches by three in diameter. The lungs were strongly adherent to the pleura costalis, the cavity being nearly obliterated. The apices were infiltrated with tubercle, still remaining in a crude state. No cavities or evidence of softened tubercles were found. In the left lung there were numerous calcareous concretions, from the size of a bird-shot to that of a pea. Other parts of the lungs were free from the strumous deposit. The lungs were proportionately small. Larynx and trachea healthy. The pericardium contained about the usual amount or a little more of serum tinged with a sanguineous color. Heart of normal size, but its parietes thin and remarkably flaccid. The tricuspid and mitral valves infiltrated, mostly at their free edges. The semilunar valves were so oedematous as to give them the appearance of miniature knuckles of intestine. The columnæ carnæ were also swollen. The encephalon appeared normal, though, at the date when examined, post-mortem change had taken place to such an extent as to render its examination worthy of little confidence.

The most remarkable changes were exhibited by the bones. The ilia were singularly spongy and light. Under the left anterior superior spinous process was a cavity of an inch by half an inch, from which the bony structure was entirely absent, the edges being perforated and worm-eaten. The external table of both the ilia was converted into a spongy, brittle mass, presenting numerous cavities, some of them passing entirely through the thickness of the bone. The vertebræ were perforated at many points, each presenting around its orifice the worm-eaten appearance. Several "extra-officinal" foramina were to be found upon the femora and tibiæ, around each of which the hard structure of the bone had become converted into a similar brittle, spongy mass. The bones, both of the lower and upper extremities, were much lighter than usual. The left humerus exhibited a sinus at the neck, of a character similar to the preceding. The right humerus was at least one third

absorbed. Between the middle and upper third it had separated entirely, the extremities of the fragments being half an inch or more apart. The medulla was entirely removed for two thirds of the length of the bone; the compact structure having been transformed into a light, porous, brittle body, yet still retaining its original shape. The neck and head of the humerus, though still retaining their shape, were literally as light as cork. The cranial bones were abnormally thickened; and, on section, in many points the distinction between the diploe and tables was nearly or quite lost. In some parts the entire substance was cancellar, while in others the compact structure completely replaced the diploe. The larger portion, however, had become spongy. In the right parietal, two inches posterior to the inferior anterior angle, and three lines above the margin of the temporal bone, was an opening with a slight obliquity from before backwards entirely through the bone. This hole was half an inch across in its longest diameter, by three lines in its shortest. The edges were quite irregular. The internal orifice was a little posterior to the external, of about the same size but more irregular upon its edges. The tables at this point were very thin, and between them the diploe was excavated, around the main opening, to the depth of two or three lines, irregularly, and with a slight worm-eaten appearance. In the left parietal, three inches from the anterior superior angle, and just to the left of the sagittal suture, was an excavation from the internal surface of the bone, passing nearly through its entire thickness, a minute shell only of the external table remaining, so thin as to be nearly transparent. In its longest diameter, measured upon the internal surface, this cavity was five eighths of an inch; transversely, half an inch. Between the tables, around the cavity, it was irregularly excavated, with the same worm-eaten appearance, to the depth of two and three lines. The transformation of compact to cancellated structure, at this point, is remarkably exemplified.

It may here be observed, that nowhere throughout the bones which had suffered the changes that have been described, was there a particle of pus or any appearance of inflammatory action. Nowhere was there any outlet to these various cavities. All that could be discovered, except the changes described, was a slight amount of serum in the excavations, having a slight sanious hue. This serum was perfectly free from particles of bone, except in the single case of the right humerus, where evidently they were derived from the accidental fracture of the bone, when its substance was mostly absorbed. This fracture or separation, I have reason to know, was neither known nor suspected prior to the death. Apart from the abnormal thickening of the calvaria, there was not the slightest evidence of an attempt to repair the diseased bones.

While the skeleton was being macerated in a quiet, out-of-the-way place, in a small creek near my residence, it was unfortunately discovered by a party of tipplers, whose wits at the time were too far muddled to understand the mystery. A little matter will often kindle a great fire, and so an excitement was the immediate result. On my return from the country, I found a coroner's jury empanelled, sitting in state

upon the bones. The holes in the head had been discovered by a fellow, who was cautiously turning it about. A reputed M.R.C.S.E. had been found, who swore, point blank, that the unhappy subject came to death by a bullet or some other missile, which had penetrated the right parietal and lodged in the left. The obliquity and size of the hole was triumphantly pointed out as indicating, beyond dispute, the nature of the injury, and the course of the ball. The other lesions of the bones were passed over as simply the results of post-mortem disintegration. Withal it was sagely affirmed that the individual had been dead "not less than eight—probably twelve months." Many were the lugubrious, Lord-Burleigh shakings of the head, and many times was it repeated, "*how strange that murder will out!*"

During the *melée*, I returned, and much to the astonishment of all, claimed the bones as my property, and substantiated the claim by the evidence of my students. After explaining the nature of the suspicious openings in the cranium, although my friend, the M.R.C.S.E., swore terribly, as did his countrymen in Flanders, the jury returned a verdict of "death from causes unknown," and the coroner ordered me to bury the remains. The latter injunction will be carried out *after* they have been deposited a suitable length of time in the museum of the medical department of the State University. They are at present in my possession.

The mistake with reference to the perforation of the cranium, could easily be made by more experienced examiners, and observation of the specimen will convince the medical witness of the necessity of observing other parts than the one exhibiting suspicious lesion; of knowing well all the circumstances of the case, before horrifying the community with evidence declaring, "*there is a murderer among you.*"

In this case is illustrated, moreover, to a remarkable extent, carious absorption of bone, in connection with, if not dependent upon, the adipose liver. Has this connection been previously noticed? There was neither syphilis nor cancer, nor either of the various diseases to which we ordinarily refer such lesions of bone. No tubercular matter was infiltrated in the bone, and there were no appearances of cicatrices upon the surface. Was the scrofulosis, indicated by the tubercles of the lungs, as much the cause of the diseased condition of the osseous tissue as the adipose liver? Or was not the condition of the lungs dependent on the disease of the liver? My own hypothesis is, that both the deposition in the lungs, and the osseous atrophy, were caused by the hepatic change, and consequent depraved nutrition. J. ADAMS ALLEN.

*Kalamazoo, Mich., July 15, 1850.*

#### CANCER OF THE LIP.

BY GILMAN KIMBALL, M.D., LOWELL.

[Communicated for the Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.]

CANCER of the lip being so common a disease, and one that so frequently besets the surgeon with embarrassment in determining what is

best to be done under certain circumstances, the following cases are given, with the view of showing that there are those of apparently the most unpromising character, where surgical skill may be made available, not only for the absolute removal of the disease, but in such manner as to subject the patient to a very inconsiderable degree of deformity.

John Cassidy, 80 years of age, with good constitution and temperate habits, discovered, some eight years since, a small, hard tumor, the size of a pea, on the middle of the border of the lower lip. Unattended with pain or other inconvenience, and remaining stationary as to size for several years, it gave no inconvenience, and received little or no attention.

Two years since, it began slowly to increase in size, and for the last six months previous to its removal its growth was very rapid. Early in April, he came under my charge. At this time, the disease involved the entire lip, embracing its whole free border, from one angle of the mouth to the other, and descending down very nearly to the chin. (The two wood-cuts indicate very correctly the appearance of the lip before and after the operation.) It was now excessively painful, discharging abundantly, and very offensive. An operation was suggested, and cheerfully submitted to without delay.

The whole lip, with so much of the contiguous parts as was likely to be at all affected with the disease, was in the first place cut clean away. This was done by making two vertical incisions through the lip, one from each angle of the mouth





down to nearly the base of the jaw, and another horizontal one, running below the disease and uniting the two first by their lower extremities. This part of the operation left a quadrangular space, which it was the design to fill up with parts supplied from the cheeks. With this view, two horizontal incisions were next made through the cheeks, running back from each commissure to the extent of an inch and a half; and then again two more of the same extent, running parallel with the base of the jaw, and continuous with the horizontal incision first made, for the removal of the lip. A slight dissection was sufficient to detach these parts from their connection with the jaw, thus affording two ample and properly-shaped flaps. These were now drawn forward with slight force, and, by means of three twisted sutures, secured to each other on the median line. Several other sutures were used here and there, for the sake of preserving a proper adjustment of the parts, and particularly at the commissure, with the view of leaving the mouth as nearly as possible with its natural width. The mucous membrane was likewise drawn over from the inner edge of the newly-formed lip, and attached to the skin on its outer edge. The dressings were very simple, consisting merely of narrow strips of thin linen, six inches in length, passing across the lip and chin from one cheek to the other, and secured thereon by means of collodion.

With regard to the subsequent treatment of this case, it is sufficient to say that on the third day the outer dressings were removed for the first time—also one of the twisted sutures. On the fourth day they were again removed, together with the two remaining sutures. At this time it was evident that union by the first intention had taken place in every part of the wound, and nothing further remained to be done, but to keep the parts covered with the collodion dressing for about a week longer, and then to be discontinued altogether.

The healing of the border of the new lip was somewhat protracted, and was not complete till the end of the third week. The stitches which had been used in the first place, for bringing together its outer and inner edges, all gave way in less than forty-eight hours; so that, in the end, they seemed to have done quite as much harm as good.

It is now fourteen weeks since the operation, and the patient is in all respects quite well. His general health is greatly improved, and there is as yet no evidence of a return of the local disease.

Another case, similar in character to the above, has since come under my charge, and though much less in extent, has been operated on after the same method, and with an equally satisfactory result.

The patient, a maiden lady, 78 years of age, of excellent health and constitution, first discovered the disease on her under lip about two years since. At first not larger than a small-sized pea, without pain or soreness, it remained stationary as to size till within a short time since, when it began rapidly to increase, and at times to be attended with pain. The disease had not yet descended below the free portion of the lip, but involved something more than half its border. It was a case where the V incision might have been adopted, and the wound brought together so as possibly to have effected an immediate union. In such a case, however,

more or less deformity would necessarily have ensued—so that the plan pursued in the case already described was thought preferable, not only as offering the best chance of securing a perfect and immediate union of the parts, but also of avoiding more certainly the probabilities of any considerable disfiguration.

The disease was first removed by making three straight incisions through the lip (as shown by the dotted lines in the annexed wood-cut), and encroaching at the same time somewhat freely upon the adjoining sound parts. The portion thus removed was trapezoidal in shape, and embraced considerably more than one half the entire lip. Flaps were next made, after the same manner as in the previously-described case, viz., by prolonging the horizontal incision on either side to the extent of three fourths of an inch, also by extending backward an incision of the same extent from each commissure of the mouth. The parts were now readily drawn together without force, and secured on the median line by twisted sutures. The same dressings as in the former case were adopted, viz., strips of fine linen nicely laid on, and coated over with collodion; and finally the whole overlaid with a thin compress moistened with cold water.



The subsequent treatment was very simple. The first dressings were allowed to remain undisturbed till the third day, and then they were entirely removed, sutures and all. The most perfect and exact union was found already to have taken place in every part, yet, as a matter of safety, the collodion application was resumed from time to time, for several days longer, when all dressings were permanently discontinued.

In this case, though the disease, as has been already shown, was comparatively limited, the propriety as well as success of the method adopted for its removal has been as satisfactorily illustrated as in the preceding case. Not only has there been no deformity produced by the operation, but even the traces of it would scarcely be noticed except by more than casual observation; and in consideration of the liberal amount of apparently sound tissue cut away in connection with the disease, also the previously healthy condition of the patient, it is perhaps reasonable to believe the malady will never return.

Aside from the interest that attaches to the above cases merely as successful results in two consecutive operations for the same disease, the more important object in furnishing these details has been to exhibit a method of procedure\* which, though not singular, has at least the merit of

\* The idea of making a new lip from material furnished from the cheeks, appears to have been first suggested, if not practised, by M. Malgaigne. The operation itself, however, as described in the details of these two cases, has been successfully performed within the year past, both by Dr. Post and Dr. Buck, of the New York Hospital.

simplicity in its favor, at the same time it fulfils, most satisfactorily, every purpose for which it was intended. It may serve, moreover, to relieve in some measure the difficulty which a surgeon sometimes feels, when he comes to determine, among the variety of operations recommended for a given object, which, upon the whole, it is most expedient to adopt.

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#### HYDROPATHY COMING DOWN.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

SIR,—As the readers of your Journal may have less time and opportunity to inform themselves relative to our aquatic brethren than myself, it may not be amiss for me to say a few words concerning them. In doing this, my object is not so much to say, that they are becoming disgusted with their own performances and are changing their hand, as to get them fairly before the public, that their craft may be recognized and the future historian assign them a place among the exploded *humbugs* of the present day. Let me premise, therefore, that a medical sect has been established in the United States, within a few years, which has assumed the appellation of hydropathic physicians, or the water-cure fraternity. They hold, or rather did, that, “water was the only appropriate remedy for the treatment of every known disease;” and this they used with equal confidence under all circumstances, be the cause, stage, or nature of the disease what it might. Thus believing, or affecting to believe, they have hoisted their sails in many of our larger towns, whither patients in considerable numbers for a while have been floated in. But, alas, the scene has changed, the “bubble has burst,” and they are now about to deal a new hand by splicing on the drug system. In proof of this, let any one compare the language of their journals *now*, with the tone of the same organs only one year ago. *Then*, it was hostile to everything but water; but *now*, there are other remedies, which under “some circumstances” may be resorted to. Speaking of the influence of drugs, the January number of the Water-cure Journal says—“if a man slightly sick cannot get well without drugs, let him be assured he cannot with their use”; and to this declaration hydropaths have universally responded. But compare this with the admission of the *great* American Hydropathic Convention which recently convened in New York city. This *august* assemblage, in their united wisdom, in a preamble to their constitution, use the following language:—“Furthermore, that of *all the remedial agents* which the experience of ages has shown to be requisite to assist nature in her operations, water is by far the *best*,” &c. Now what does this signify, unless it means that there are a *variety of remedies which may be used beneficially*, though with *less* advantage, in the opinion of the convention, than water. This, for a sect who had advocated the exclusiveness of water as a remedy, and declared that “drugs were not remedial,” and, even, that “they act as poisons, not as antidotes,” is all that could be anticipated. They prefer, as any one would, not a *violent* death, but one which is *gradual*,

and admitting of ample time to conform to the great change which is about to take place. They could not so abruptly commit suicide, as to acknowledge that opium, jalap, ipecac., &c., are by far better than water in certain cases. This, the American Hydropathic Convention, composed of about thirty delegates from New York and Massachusetts, did not, and will not at present, do. This step is reserved for a more "convenient season," so far as the body politic is concerned, although it is being admitted by some of the faculty in their own personal and private capacity. Look, if you please, at the language of the circular put forth by the Halstead Establishment, located in Rochester, N. Y. Speaking of the treatment of diseases, they say, "when combined with other remedial means of this institution, diseases are cured in weeks, which months of treatment with water alone was unable to do more than relieve or palliate. Such has been the case with numbers who had tried the former without success, in the most thorough hydropathic establishments." Such is the confession of the oldest, most popular and successful water-cure establishment in the United States. To me, therefore, the signs of the times are indicative of a great caving in of the water-cure fraternity. The truth is, we live in a period of time peculiar for humbugs; but, after all, their career is generally a "brief" one, when they must give place to the more rational and consistent views which are to follow. Thus will it be with hydropathy. There is intelligence *without* and *within*, which must, ere long, consign the "one-idea" system of water to a grave so low and deep, that a general deluge could not wash it out. Amen and amen!

Yours in haste, CONSISTENCY.

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## THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

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BOSTON, JULY 31, 1850.

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### EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

*Paris, June 24th, 1850.*—By slow stages, with a view to a general examination of all objects of historical or local interest to travellers, I have finally arrived at the celebrated city in which this is dated. Yesterday was the Sabbath; but had it not been for one of Mr. Marsh's convenient memorandum wallets, the fact might have been forgotten, since no indications of a day of holy rest, for christian contemplation and the worship of God, were anywhere recognized in the streets. Crying strawberries (which, in point of size, would quite astonish one of Mr. Hovey's seedling eaters), cherries, vegetables, old clothes, pipes, papers, &c., together with music here and there, open shops, markets, galleries of paintings, sculpture, and everything else which could possibly divert the mind, were going on as usual. One week before, we were at a small, old parish church at East Cowes, Isle of Wight, tolerably well filled with sober-looking, honest people—among whom was Queen Victoria, Prince Albert, and the Princess Royal. They were devout without ostentation, and in dress as plain as a puritan of the old school would have required. The curate spoke out the truth plainly into the ears of majesty. He referred to the spirit of pro-

gress—the vast amount of good that was being accomplished by tract societies, Sunday schools and Bible societies. A verse was given out to be sung, in which all joined; and when it was completed, another, in which the sovereign, on whose dominions the sun never sets, heartily joined. She once or twice pointed out the right place on the leaf to her daughter, who, like other children, appeared occasionally to lose the line. Here in Paris, in the great cathedral of Notre Dame, a few strangers were walking about through the forenoon, gazing at the paintings, the sculpture, and the altars. All who appeared to manifest any devotional feelings were females, with a few exceptions. High mass was celebrated early in the morning, but no one seemed to know whether there was to be a sermon or not. In two other churches, magnificently decorated by paintings, females constituted the audience. At night, Champs d'Elysée was radiant with light, and more people were walking, sitting, drinking weak wine and sugar-water, and listening to public singers, mock orators and showmen, than there are inhabitants in the city of Boston. Some of the feats of legerdemain were extraordinary, yet the exhibition was on the unswept gravel walk. From morning till midnight the women of Paris appear to live in the gardens of the Tuilleries, or are sitting under the shade trees on the sidewalks, plying their needles most industriously, working laces, and engaged in a thousand other kinds of feminine employment. Chairs are let for about half a cent, to any passer-by, as long as he chooses to be seated, and thousands upon thousands are sitting in them and inhaling the fresh air, that gives them vigor of body and elasticity of mind. Were all the females of Boston to take possession of the Common, by half past 9, and remain till bed-time, it would present a miniature representation of street-life in Paris. It is this perpetual exposure to the light of heaven, and the pure atmosphere in which they breathe, that gives them a degree of health, vivacity and powers of endurance, unknown in our country.

Frenchmen are excessively fond of pets; yet they let their children, says report, go into the basket of the foundling hospital. Dogs, birds, cats, goats, &c., all have their admirers. The cartmen love their horses, and bestow as much attention on their tails as a Spanish lady does upon her locks. Donkeys, as in England and Ireland, are here the principal beasts of burden. They are sometimes almost smothered in a harness large enough for an elephant. Great blinders, half the size of a spade, a monstrous check rein, and straps in proportion, on a little animal not much above the bulk of a well-fed Vermont sheep, are a source of amusement to an American wending his way along the Boulevards. Females throughout France work in the fields, in the lowest kind of drudgery, such as spreading manure, loading hay, hoeing and weeding, while men are chamber-maids and table-waiters.

Paris is a city of windows and doors. The stores are generally small, but showy. One kind of trade or art singularly wedges itself in beside something else very different. Thus in a sort of niche cut into the wall, something like a sentry box, is a cobbler drawing his thread, with scarcely room to lay a lapstone; next, in a similar spot, under a rich display of goods, a man is frying pancakes, which he sells on bits of paper, hot and dripping, to pedestrians. Everybody drinks wine, from the President of the Republic to the bootblack; still, a case of intemperance, of a marked character, is an anomaly. Not a single known case of a broken-down constitution from drunkenness has been discovered, either on the highways or in any of the

numerous charities with which Paris abounds. If wine could be introduced into the United States, of the quality in general use all over the wine-growing parts of Europe, it would do something towards staying the plague of intemperance, were it within the reach of those of small means. In New England, however, it would be a hopeless undertaking to convince the strong pillars of the temperance reformation, that a free distribution of wine would actually promote the cause better than legislative enactments. The article contemplated in this observation bears no kind of affinity or resemblance to the hot, inflammatory stuff, sold among us under the names of Maderia, Sherry, &c.,—much of which is manufactured, as the sparkling Champagne is, to meet the demand of a perverted taste in those who now purchase it.

In the most central parts of streets, there are wood and coal shops, where these articles are sold by the pound. Messrs. Prentice & Sons would laugh at these tiny magazines of fuel. Why, they send away more, at one order, to a gentleman's door, than apparently could be found in all the firing stores of Paris. No one should indulge the expectation of purchasing the necessities of life cheaply in Paris. Clothing is no better than with us, but always costs more. All the American ladies complain of the high price of shoes, gloves, bonnets, shawls, &c. Medical students who come here for hospital instruction, need not flatter themselves with the idea of practising economy. The word is not known here in the sense attached to it by those who have earned their own pecuniary independence in the States.

A week may be profitably passed in the streets of Paris before venturing up to the various institutions of the city, so famed abroad. Every inch of ground presents a new sight, which should not be slighted because somebody might stigmatize it as vulgar curiosity to hear and see whatever happens to come into view. It is only by seeing for one's self, and hearing with one's own ears, in low life as well as in high, that a just estimate can be formed of the prevailing characteristics of any country. Of the museums and galleries of paintings and sculpture, vast and rich beyond any collections with us, no descriptions will be attempted, as whole volumes published by the government almost fail to satisfy those who exclusively study them as master-pieces of the first artists of the world.

A few nights ago we visited the Theatre of the Republic, to witness the tragic powers of the distinguished Rachel, a woman of extraordinary genius, whose name alone is enough to ensure a full house whenever she appears. There was no orchestra—not the sound of a musical instrument, nor a change of scenery or the tinkling of a bell, from beginning to end. Four rows of boxes, filled with fashionables, and the enormous pit also, full to its utmost capacity, were so perfectly still, throughout a play of five long acts, that every word was distinctly heard—save when some sentiment was uttered by the gifted favorite in a tone and manner that electrified the multitude.

All the theatres in Paris are the property of the government, by whom immense bodies of actors are maintained. A published sheet is sent over the town every morning, announcing the public spectacles for the evening. Even the circus and hippodrome are under the cognisance of the same controlling power. These are the exhausting engines of the empire, where people get rid of an overflow of spirits. The city authorities encourage the erection of pavilions of elegant structure, and even allow them to be erected on the city lands, on purpose to divert the attention of the citizens. What would such a vast body of human beings not do, were no provision



made for their diversion? There are not holidays enough in Massachusetts. When the population has quadrupled, if simple, agreeable amusements are not placed within reach, vice and crime will probably greatly and disproportionately increase. Those very persons who write and publicly declaim against the order of things in respect to civil, innocent amusements in Paris, are very punctual attendants on many of them, while they remain. A Boston gentleman expressed his regret, the other day, that the government of that city did not invite such as chose to embark in the enterprise to erect tasteful buildings on the public lands on the neck and at South Boston, rent free, in which cheap, pleasant exhibitions of paintings, statuary, song-singing, music, &c., should be found. The Rev. Mr. Beecher, of Brooklyn, N. Y., is altogether in advance of the age in New England in reference to amusements: he is right, and his sayings are prophetic. Has not the public health, too, much to do with this matter?

Every body here wears mustaches, who can possibly make the beard of the upper lip grow out far enough. If whiskers were fashionable, scarcely one in a hundred could raise a crop; but few fail to coax nature to yield a few hairs about the mouth. The custom unquestionably originated with some empty-headed military dignitary, who being minus the whiskers, set sail on another tack, which men of a similar calibre are copying, as though their importance as men depended on making themselves asses. It is extremely mortifying to meet with our young countrymen, who were at home very pleasant, agreeable, promising scions of excellent families, transforming themselves into monkeys by their filthy looking and often colored mustaches. One of this class sat at a public table, the other day, where several plain, substantial American gentlemen were dining, and was obliged to hold up his villainous mustache with one hand, while a spoon of soup was introduced with the other!

While in the streets of Paris it is noticeable that not a dwelling-house door bears the occupant's name. A more difficult undertaking could not be imagined, than finding the residence of a physician or surgeon—not one of them having a sign or any indication whatever of his place of business. In fact, the whole front of every street is taken up with shops. Between some two of them, there is an entrance into a small square yard. On arriving there, a small office by the side of a door, commanding all the stairways and apartments within, is in the constant occupancy of some old woman, who inquires what is wanted, and directs accordingly. Even extensive wholesale merchants and bankers are lodged in such localities, up flights of stairs enough to gratify an astronomer with the idea he was near the planets when at the top story. After a desperate effort a part of two days to ascertain the residence of the celebrated Dr. Civiale, the discovery was finally made that he was within a few doors, in the same street with the complainant. He is a cordial, obliging, kind-hearted man, who reminds one of Dr. Walter Channing, in person somewhat, and very much in manner; and all who have the happiness to know him, feel that he is a plain, straight-forward, benevolent physician, who endeavors to live for something else besides heaping up dollars.

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*Obstetrical Extractor.*—Dr. John Evans, Professor of Obstetrics in the Rush Medical College, at Chicago, is the inventor of a new instrument for the drawing of the foetal head through the pelvis. By a description, accompanied with a drawing, which have been received, we should judge

the instrument might in some cases be very serviceable. It would afford us much pleasure to inspect the instrument itself, and we should then be better able to judge of its merits. Our views respecting instruments in obstetrical practice, differ somewhat, perhaps, from those generally entertained. We have observed that in tardy labors, where the presenting part was considered too bulky to pass through the pelvis, it was generally inexpedient to use the forceps. If the state of the parts is such that they can readily and easily be applied, we think that most generally, with some patience on the part of the patient and accoucheur, the labor may terminate safely without any instrumental interference. There are some cases, in which the patient is in danger, either from hemorrhage or convulsions, or the length of time that pressure has been exerted on the soft parts, or the patient's strength may have become exhausted; then the case might warrant the use of instruments. The choice of these demands our special attention. The perforator and crotchet, in the hands of an accoucheur who is skilled in its use, is safe to the mother. With forceps, when used in cases where *something must be done*, much injury is often done to the mother, and oftentimes the child dies within a few days after its delivery, or becomes a sufferer from cerebral or other difficulties consequent upon the injury it may have received. There have been many contrivances to rid the mother of her offspring in such cases, some quite novel ones. Professor Simpson uses, or recommends, suction applied to the presenting part. While we approve of the zeal manifested by the profession, in their endeavors to render to the suffering patient all the assistance that may be needed, we cannot avoid giving our unprejudiced opinion respecting any invention for such purposes that may be offered.

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*Caution in the Use of Ether and Chloroform.*—A very serious accident happened in surgical practice in this city, not long since, by the taking fire of the vapor of the ether which was used to produce insensibility. The circumstances under which the accident occurred, are these. The patient had an operation performed upon the face, near the mouth. There being some considerable hemorrhage, the actual cautery was applied, and it was by contact with the heated iron that the ether vapor was set on fire. Too much caution cannot be used in the application of ether, and this one instance of its inflammability in actual practice, should serve as a caution to all. No lighted body should be placed near a patient, while he is under the influence of ether. There never should be a lighted lamp brought into a close, or small room, while etherization is going on.

Two instances of death from the use of chloroform, have recently taken place—one in England and the other in this country. "In the former case, the victim, a Mr. Smith, retired to rest, about half-past 11 o'clock. In the night he was heard to moan, but it was concluded he was dreaming. As he did not appear at the usual time at the breakfast table, a domestic was sent to his bed-room, when he was found lying in bed, life being extinct. In his hands he held a handkerchief, firmly pressed to his mouth and nostrils. It appears that the unfortunate gentleman had been in the habit of inhaling chloroform for the purpose of allaying the face-ache. A bottle which had contained chloroform was found uncorked in the watch-pocket of the bed, and in a private drawer two bottles of chloroform were discovered. The post-mortem examination of the body showed the blood to be in a very fluid state and very dark in color: the right cavities of the heart were distended with blood, the liver and kidneys slightly congested. No smell, to show that chloroform had been used, could be detected."

*Castleton Medical College.*—The spring term of lectures in this institution was attended by a class of students more numerous than usual. At the close of the session thirty-nine gentlemen received the degree of Doctor in Medicine in course, and two Honorary Degrees were conferred. The Society of Alumni, and class of graduates, on the occasion, were addressed in a spirited and appropriate manner by J. N. Nothrop, M.D., of Decatur, N. Y., an Alumnus of the College. A catalogue of the class of the spring term will be published with a catalogue of the autumnal term.

*Western Reserve College.*—The Annual Catalogue of the students in the Western Reserve College, Cleveland, Ohio, for the year 1849, has been received. We learn from it that 255 gentlemen attended the last course of lectures in the medical department, 79 of whom, at the close of the term, having passed a satisfactory examination before the faculty, received the degree of Doctor in Medicine. This institution, in the character of its medical faculty, will compare favorably with any of the colleges, and it will be seen that it sends out a large number of graduates.

*Medical Miscellany.*—A measure has been brought into the British House of Commons, to enable surgeons called by servants of Railroad Companies, in cases of accident, to recover from the companies for their services. —At the late annual commencement of Harvard University, the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on 33 candidates, and the honorary degree on Dr. Rufus Longley, of Haverhill, Mass.—A sad mistake by an apothecary, in putting up a medical prescription, occurred in this city last week. Instead of 10 grs. calomel ordered, that amount of corrosive sublimate was put up, and taken by the patient. Death, probably in consequence of this poison, took place in a few days.—At the commencement of the Philadelphia College of Medicine, held on the 19th inst., the degree of Doctor in Medicine was conferred upon sixty-nine gentlemen.—At a festival lately held in London for the benefit of the funds of the Hospital for Consumption, the sum of £2304 was collected.—Cases of cholera have occurred, during the last month, at Cincinnati, St. Louis, and other cities at the west and south west; but they have been few in number compared with those of last year.—The whole of Dr. Ware's article on Croup, inserted in the 12th and 13th Nos. of this volume of the Journal, is copied into the Ohio Medical and Surgical Journal, without any credit being given, or a word of intimation as to the source whence it was obtained.

*MARRIED.*—At Bath, Me., Dr. Geo. B. Upham, of Brunswick, to Miss Sarah B. Richardson, of Bath.

*DIED.*—In Cincinnati, Ohio, Dr. Shotwell, a physician of much eminence.

*Deaths in Boston*—for the week ending Saturday noon, July 27th, 68.—Males, 31—females, 37. Accidental, 1—bowels, disease of, 2—bowels, inflammation of, 1—disease of the brain, 2—consumption, 18—convulsions, 4—cholera infantum, 2—cancer, 1—canker, 1—croup, 1—dysentery, 3—diarrhoea, 3—dropsy of brain, 5—erysipelas, 1—typhoid fever, 1—scarlet fever, 1—hooping cough, 1—disease of heart, 1—intemperance, 2—infantile diseases, 2—lungs, inflammation of, 1—marasmus, 1—meneses, 1—old age, 2—palsy, 1—smallpox, 5—throat, disease of, 1—teething, 1—tumor, 1—unknown, 2.

Under 5 years, 33—between 5 and 20 years, 4—between 20 and 40 years, 15—between 40 and 60 years, 10—over 60 years, 6. Americans, 27; foreigners and children of foreigners, 41.

Corresponding week last year, 105 deaths, of which 10 were by cholera.

*Webster.  
76 W.  
no old books.*

*Dr. J. W. Webster.*—The following accepted Report deserves a place in the Journal. The Committee on Pardons, to whom was referred the petition of John W. Webster, a convict under sentence of death, praying, in behalf of himself and his wife and children, the Governor and Council to extend to the petitioner a commutation of the punishment awarded to him; also, a copy of the records of the Court, containing the trial and sentence of said Webster, and also sundry other petitions and arguments referring to, or in support of, the petition of said Webster, now report,

That, by said record, it appears that said Webster was regularly indicted for the crime of the murder of Dr. George Parkman, and set to the bar of the Supreme Court at the March Term thereof, A. D. 1850—and there having been inquired of how he would acquit himself concerning the premises, for answer, said he was not guilty, and thereof put himself upon the country.

Counsel was thereupon assigned for the prisoner. On the nineteenth day of March following, said Webster was again set to the bar to be tried. A jury was empanelled and sworn, and after full hearing, on their oaths declared that said John W. Webster was guilty. And thereafterwards, viz., on the 1st day of April, in said Court, said Webster being placed at the bar for sentence, it was demanded of him by said Court if he had anything to say wherefore sentence should not be declared upon the premises and verdict aforesaid. To which said Webster nothing further answered.

Thereupon it was considered by the Court, that the said John W. Webster be taken to the Jail whence he came, and thence to the place of execution, and there be hanged by the neck until he be dead.

Since the passing said sentence by said Court, numerous petitions and arguments have been presented to the Executive for the full pardon of said Webster, founded upon the belief and presumption that he never committed even a homicide. Recent events, however, relieve the committee, in a great measure, from the consideration of all such arguments and petitions.

On the 2d of July, A. D. 1850, the Rev. Dr. Putnam, by appointment, appeared in behalf of said Webster, before the Committee on Pardons, and read a confession made by said Webster, acknowledging that he committed the homicide, and declaring the manner and circumstances thereof,—and at the same time presented said Webster's petition for a commutation of the sentence aforesaid. The petition and confession were supported by an able argument by Dr. Putnam.

To this confession and argument, and all arguments and evidence supporting it, we have given our most serious and anxious attention, and we have proceeded to consider the same with hearts and minds desirous to know the truth and our duty, and with a firm purpose to do what both should require.

It seems to your Committee that the sentence in the case of said Webster, having been passed by the Court, after a full and fair trial, in the course of which, all the facts and circumstances which could then be brought to light, were patiently and thoroughly investigated and weighed by the Jury—and having been fully affirmed, after a careful revision of the law upon trial, since had by the full Court, on solemn argument of both sides, there appears to be no ground for Executive interposition, except it may be found in the subsequent confession of the prisoner.

In this view, the only questions, as it seems to us, are, whether the statements which said Webster now makes in his confession, of the manner and circumstances of the homicide, are so confirmed by other evidence, or so intrinsically probable, that they ought to be received as true: and if true, whether they justify the Executive in a commutation of the punishment.

To these questions, the minds of the Committee have been most carefully directed, and as they trust, with no unwillingness on their part to come to an affirmative conclusion, if they could do so consistently with a *supreme regard to truth and justice*. But after all the consideration which they have been able to bestow upon this confession, and under the light of all the evidence and the comments with which it has been accompanied and supported, they feel constrained to say, that the effect has not been such as to satisfy their minds that the position of the case is materially changed. In other words, the palliating facts and circumstances, set forth in the confession, have not been so confirmed by other evidence and circumstances, as to form a proper and sufficient basis for Executive interference.

To this painful conclusion the Committee have unanimously come.

The Committee therefore respectfully report, that they cannot, consistently with what they conceive their duty, recommend a commutation of the sentence, in the case of John W. Webster, as prayed for in his petition. Nothing now remains for the Committee, in the discharge of this painful duty, but to advise your Excellency in determining upon a time for the Execution, and they name *Friday, the thirtieth day of August next, as the day*; and recommend to your Excellency to decide upon that day as the time for the Execution of John W. Webster.

JOHN REED, Chairman.

Council Chamber, July 19, 1850.

